

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014603

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G01N21/05 G01N21/25

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 24 45 148 A1 (COULTER ELECTRONICS INC; COULTER ELECTRONICS INC., HIALEAH, FLA.) 1 April 1976 (1976-04-01)	1-5
Y	the whole document	6-22
X	US 5 883 721 A (GILBY ET AL) 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16)	1-5
Y	column 4, line 20 - column 5, line 11; figures 1-3	6-22
	----- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/04/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hoogen, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014603

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KACHEL V ET AL: "UNIFORM LATERAL ORIENTATION, CAUSED BY FLOW FORCES, OF FLAT PARTICLES IN FLOW-THROUGH SYSTEMS" JOURNAL OF HISTOCHEMISTRY AND CYTOCHEMISTRY, HISTOCHEMICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK, NY, US, vol. 25, no. 7, 1977, pages 774-780; XP002915897 ISSN: 0022-1554 pages 774-776	1-5
Y	WO 02/075285 A (E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY) 26 September 2002 (2002-09-26) page 14, line 16 - page 16, line 23; figures 9,11-15	6-22
Y	DE 101 49 780 A1 (BYK-GARDNER GMBH) 30 April 2003 (2003-04-30) paragraphs '0165! - '0168!; figure 8	6-22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014603

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 2445148	A1	01-04-1976	NONE	
US 5883721	A	16-03-1999	AU 8480298 A EP 0995104 A1 JP 2002509611 T WO 9902968 A1	08-02-1999 26-04-2000 26-03-2002 21-01-1999
WO 02075285	A	26-09-2002	BR 0208618 A CA 2438291 A1 EP 1370849 A2 JP 2004527744 T MX PA03008400 A WO 02075285 A2 US 2002149773 A1	02-03-2004 26-09-2002 17-12-2003 09-09-2004 29-01-2004 26-09-2002 17-10-2002
DE 10149780	A1	30-04-2003	JP 2003222594 A US 2003151746 A1	08-08-2003 14-08-2003